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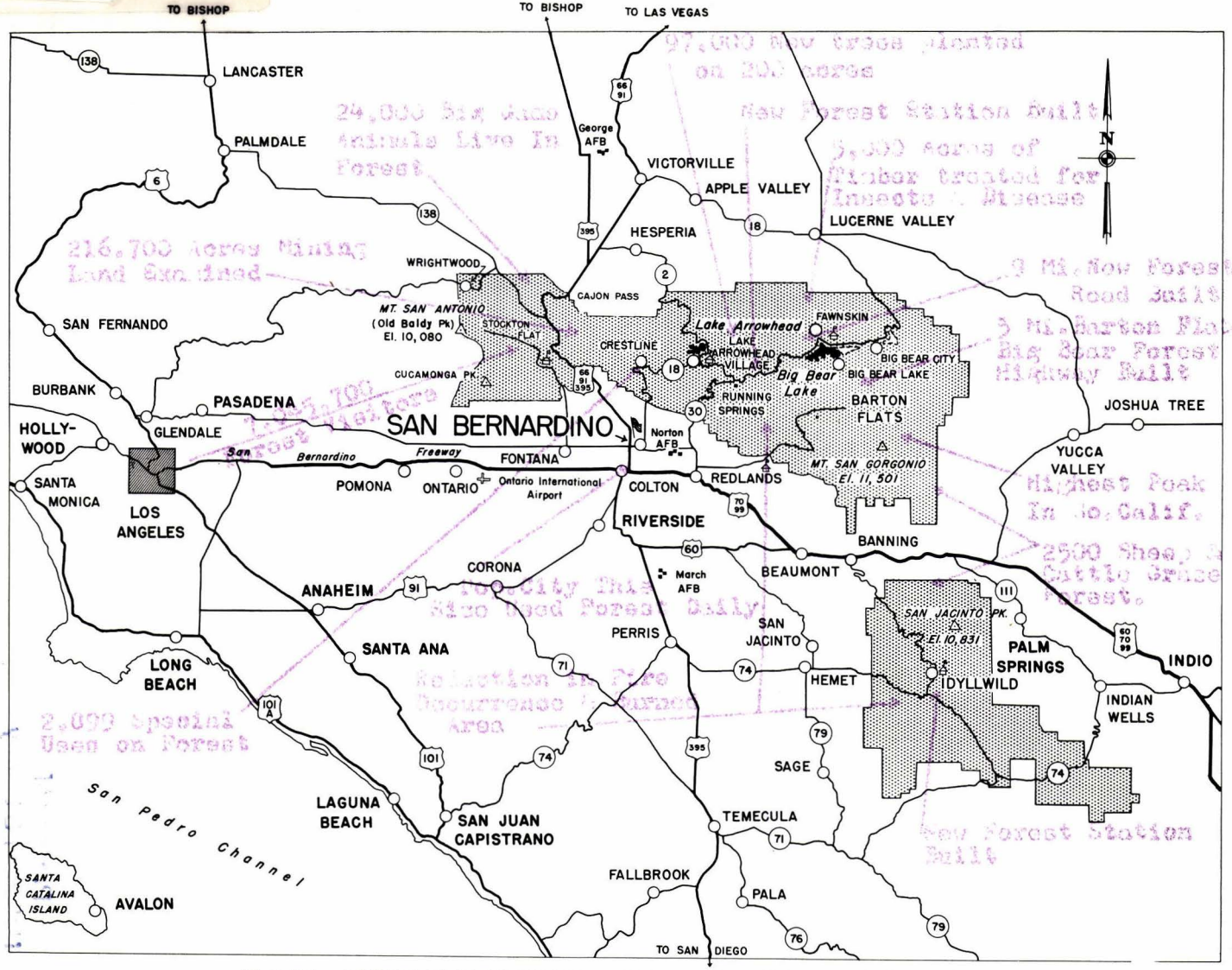

SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FOREST

U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE - FOREST SERVICE

— San Bernardino National Forest

District Ranger Station

Supervisor's Headquarters

FEBRUARY 1958

Drafted by- A.M. Barber

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FOREST

ADDRESS REPLY TO
FOREST SUPERVISOR
AND REFER TO

SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA

I
INFORMATION
Annual Reports

February 17, 1959

Dear Stockholder:

The Congress, in authorizing the National Forests, specified that they were to be created "For the purpose of securing favorable conditions of water flows, and to furnish a continuous supply of timber for the use and necessities of the citizens of the United States." Administratively, however, regulations have set forth the principle that the wise use of national forests calls for the management of these lands to achieve the "Greatest good of the greatest number in the long run." This has called for management patterned after the principle of multiple use which recognizes that forest areas can, under management, yield more than a single product.

This report is designed to provide you, as the owner of a share of national forest lands, with a brief resume of the progress and accomplishments of multiple use management on the San Bernardino National Forest during 1958.

If you desire detailed information on a special activity please feel free to contact your local District Ranger or the Forest Supervisor's Office, Post Office Building, San Bernardino, California.

Very truly yours,

D. R. Bauer

DONALD R. BAUER, Forest Supervisor

Remember – **Only you can**
PREVENT FOREST FIRES!

INTRODUCTION

Located in the heart of the southern California mountain recreation area, the San Bernardino National Forest is easily accessible to the eight million residents of southern California by modern freeways and a system of improved highways.

From the 10,080 foot peak of Mt. Baldy in the San Gabriel mountains, the Forest extends eastward to beyond the 11,502 foot peak of Mt. San Gorgonio in the San Bernardino mountains. A separate unit of the Forest includes the splendor of the 10,831 foot San Jacinto Peak, the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa mountains in Riverside County.

Within the 812,633 acre national forest boundary you will find wide variations of climate, vegetative types, natural resources and opportunities for recreation. Seventy-six percent of this area, 614,096 acres, is National Forest land with the remaining 198,537 intermingled acres in State or private ownerships.

Three wild areas, totaling 74,291 acres, have been set aside within the Forest boundary. The Cucamonga, San Gorgonio and San Jacinto Wild Areas, are being managed in a "Wild" or natural state in the sense that they serve a growing need for primitive type camping, hiking and nature study with a minimum of disturbance to the natural environment.

Principal resources of the San Bernardino National Forest integrated under the multiple use management concept include water, recreation, timber, wildlife, grazing and mining. All of these depend upon adequate protection of the basic soil resource.

Progress in the management of these resources during 1958 is highlighted in this brief summary:

RECREATION ACTIVITIES:

For the third consecutive year public use of the San Bernardino National Forest has exceeded its previous all time record for the number of annual recreation visits. During 1958 the Forest received 7,045,700 recreational visits. This 9.6 percent increase over the 1957 record makes this Forest one of the most popular and heavily used national forests in the nation. To better visualize this volume of recreational use, imagine the entire population of the City of Colton, or an average of 19,300 people each day who found healthful fun and relaxation in this yearlong playground.

Table I shows that the San Bernardino National Forest received 2,275,000 recreational visits in 1945. Ten years later, in 1955, the use had risen to 4,866,000 visits, an increase of 2,591,000 visits. In the next three years, 1956-58, the use had increased an additional 2,179,000 visits, almost equal to the increase of the previous ten years.

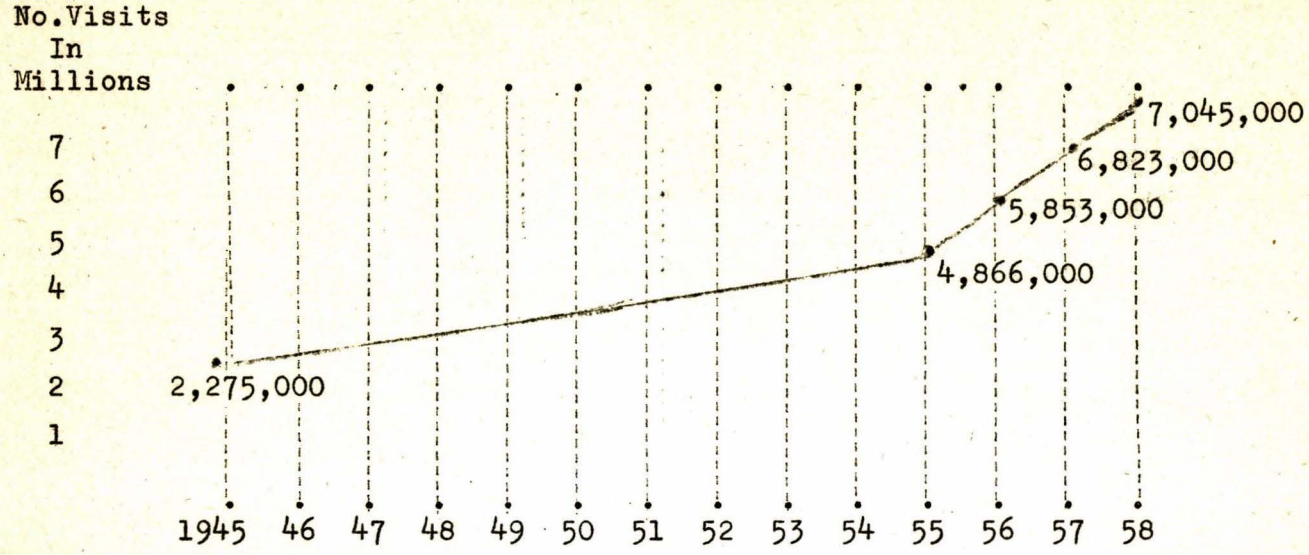

TABLE I - NUMBER OF RECREATIONAL VISITS 1945-1958

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Outdoor recreationa means many different things to many people. Listed below, in Table II, are some of the more popular recreation activities that attracted people to this Forest.

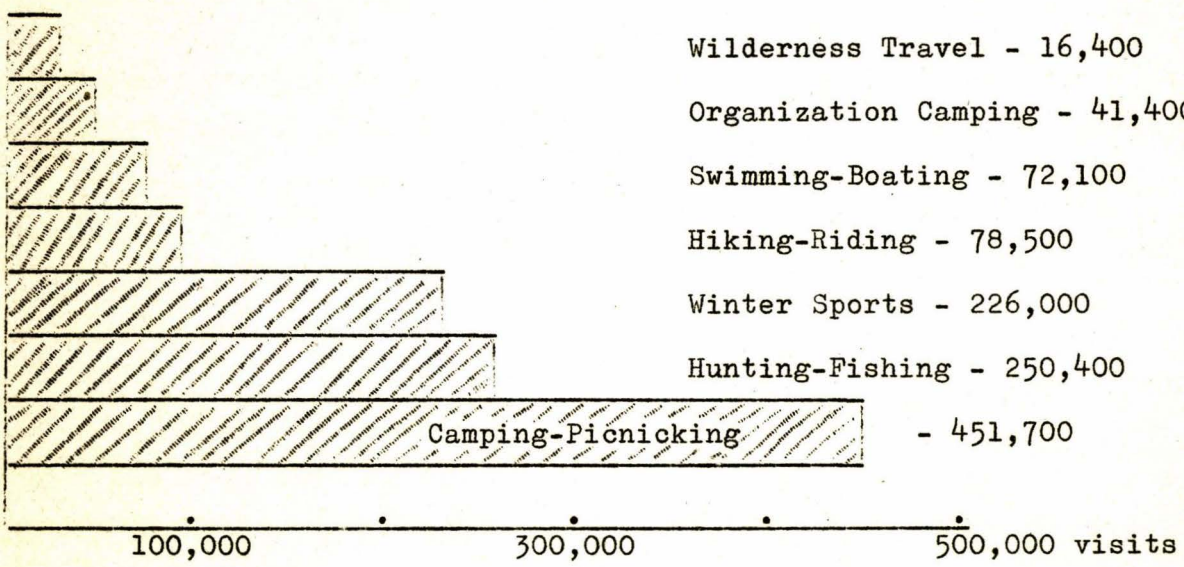

TABLE II - NUMBER OF RECREATION VISITS BY PRIMARY PURPOSE

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To meet the impact of this increase in recreational use, not only on this Forest but on all 148 national forests in the nation, Congress, in 1955, inaugurated "Operation Outdoors", a program of rehabilitating existing camping facilities and establishing new camp and picnic areas.

1958 saw much progress in providing better type camp facilities on the San Bernardino National Forest. Major emphasis was placed on better care and policing of all campsites. This work was accomplished by both Forest Service personnel and contractors in an effort to provide constantly clean, sanitary, attractive conditions.

The 42 campgrounds and 8 picnic grounds on the Forest have a total "one-time" capacity of 5,500 people or about 1,127 family units. In 1958 they received 451,700 recreation visits. Applying the total capacity to the total visits indicates that our entire camp facilities would have been filled to overflowing 82 days this last year. Since experience has taught us that holidays, long weekends and seasonal hot weather in the valleys brings peak recreation loads, the rangers have designed and established eight overflow or "holiday" camp areas, equipped with the minimum essentials of stoves, toilets, sanitation and adequate fire protection in a determined effort "that none shall be turned away" during these peak periods.

Rehabilitation of existing improved campgrounds progressed during 1958 with road restoration work completed in Applewhite Campground in Lytle Creek Canyon, Green Valley Campground, Hanna Flats and Pine Knot campgrounds in the Big Bear area. Roads were paved, parking areas built and traffic barriers installed in the Council Camp, Barton Flats and San Gorgonio and South Fork Campgrounds in the Barton Flats area, Baylis and Switzer picnic grounds in the Lake Arrowhead area and Dark Canyon, Marion Mountain, Fern Basin and Fuller Mill Creek campgrounds in the Idyllwild-San Jacinto area. Wild Area recreation facilities were enhanced by the installation of stoves, water and toilets at Skunk Cabbage Meadow, Tahquitz and Little Tahquitz Valleys in the San Jacinto Wild Area. These units were located to encourage greater dispersal of use towards reducing overuse of these high country meadows.

The Lake Fulmor recreation area received extensive erosion control treatment as forest rangers working with the Riverside County Industrial Road Crew built rock retaining walls, walkways and picnic sites around the lake area.

Camp Pow-Wow, a new concept in camp facilities, was dedicated and proved immediately popular, as 700 persons used it for a total of 2,500 mandays. Located in the Barton Flats area, this new campground is designed to fit the needs of many civic, church and youth organizations who desire group camping space on a reservation basis.

Progress, with an eye towards the future, was made this year as the Forest employed a full time, professional, Landscape Architect to assist the rangers in efficient, modern layout and design of new camping facilities that are needed to meet the ever increasing recreation demand.

Additional service and supervision was afforded the 16,400 knapsack and pack-stock campers who used the Wild Areas, by the employment of two "high country" rangers. These men attended to the safety and service requirements of these rugged, roadless areas.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT:

Progress was made during 1958 in the continuing program of concerted effort to improve the health and vigor of this Forest's 164,000 acres of coniferous timber which is primarily managed for recreation and watershed purposes.

Treatment of the timber stand by the scientific removal of highly susceptible, insect infested and diseased trees resulted in the removal of an average of three susceptible trees per acre for the 5,000 acres of national forest lands treated. Analysis of the forest area receiving this insect-disease high risk treatment shows that a "typical acre" will, exclusive of smaller growth, average 80 trees twelve inches or larger in diameter at breast height, with a

volume of about 12,000 board feet of timber. Removal of an average of three live, low-vigor trees and three fire hazardous dead or rotten trees reduced this volume by about 2,000 board feet. The remaining 74 healthy trees and the average 200 young trees per acre receive advantages in reduced disease, reduction of insect infestation, reduction of fire hazard and better growing conditions for new trees to put on vigorous growth that far outweighs the loss of volume caused by the treatment.

Rangers carefully supervise the selection and marking of each tree to be removed. The trees so marked are sold under competitive bid to qualified commercial operators.

Receipts received by the Forest Service for the sale of these trees are returned to the public in a number of ways. One fourth of the receipts are returned directly to the County for roads and schools. An additional 10% is returned to the Forest Service for construction of forest roads and trails. Under the Knutson-Vandenburg Law a portion of the receipts is returned to the Forest to carry on reforestation in the area.

Last year 97,000 new trees were planted. 10,000 in the Wright Mountain area near Wrightwood; 72,000 in the 1956 McKinley Fire area near Lake Arrowhead and 15,000 in the Converse Flats-Horse Meadow area. 165,000 seedlings will be planted early in 1959 and an estimated 200,000 young trees will be planted each year for the period 1960-65.

Much progress was made in the preparation for treatment of additional forested areas towards the completion of the long range (ten year) plan of sanitation treatment of the entire stand.

Areas that were under preparation during 1958 include the Holcomb Creek area in both the Arrowhead and Big Bear Ranger Districts and the Thomas Hunting Ground area on the San Gorgonio Ranger District.

This entire timber treatment project is being conducted with the closest integration of the multiple use management of the other vital resources of water, recreation, grazing and wildlife.

MINING ACTIVITIES:

Mining and prospecting are permitted by law on the San Bernardino National Forest except for areas withdrawn from mineral entry or classified for other uses.

The mining laws provide that a discovery of minerals in sufficient quantity to justify a prudent man to spend time and money in development, must be made before a mining claim is valid. Sand, gravel, stone, pumice, pumicite or cinders are not considered locatable within the meaning of the law. During 1958 forest rangers examined twenty-five application for patents on mining claims within the Forest. Twenty-one of these applications have been contested on the basis that a valid discovery of valuable minerals had not been made in sufficient amounts to justify further development.

Timber on a valid mining claim may be used only for a bonafide mine development. The 1955 mining law provides that on all new claims, or old ones brought under the provisions of the Act by Determination of Surface Rights, the cutting of timber on a claim except for minimum clearing shall be in accordance with sound principles of forest management.

216,700 acres of forest lands have been examined by local rangers to determine surface rights in compliance with this law. Cooperation of the mining interests in releasing these surface resources for other uses has been outstanding.

ENGINEERING PROGRESS:

Progress was the evident key note in every phase of engineering activity on the San Bernardino National Forest during 1958.

Contracted construction was completed on two new fire suppression crew barracks, one located at Deer Lick near Running Springs, the other at Keenwild, between Idyllwild and Mountain Center in the San Jacinto mountains. An addition was made to the Fire Control Assistant's residence at the Arrowhead Ranger Station.

Preparation of building sites for new fire crew barracks at Arrowhead Ranger Station, residence and fire crew barracks at Big Bear Ranger Station and a residence at Converse were completed. This new building construction will be done under contract by private builders with close Forest Service supervision.

The importance of adequate access in the multiple use management of the Forest resources was emphasized in 1958. Construction was completed on the first five miles of the Thomas Hunting Ground Fire Access Road in the Camp Angelus area, 9.4 miles of access road was built completing a 13 mile vital link between Green Valley and Big Pines Flats to facilitate fire protection and sanitation treatment of the timber stand. Four miles of campground service roads were resurfaced and a total of 950 miles of Forest Service roads were maintained. Intensive plans and preliminary surveys were prepared for about 800 miles of additional fire access roads that are badly needed for fire protection.

Forest Rangers worked closely with the contractors on the construction of the first leg of five miles on the new Barton Flats-Big Bear National Forest Highway under Bureau of Public Roads contract and the new Keller Peak Road. The Keller Peak "special service road" is being built in conjunction with the construction of a million dollar micro-wave station by Pacific Telephone Company at Keller Peak.

Riding and hiking trail work included heavy maintenance to 10 miles of the State Riding & Hiking Trail in the Mission Creek area, six miles of trail in the Dollar Lake-San Gorgonio area, restoration work on the Devil's Slide Trail in the San Jacinto area and supervision of the work of a Riverside County Industrial Road Crew in starting construction of a new trail from Humber Park to Riverside County Park in the Idyllwild area. A total of 417 miles of trails received annual maintenance.

Four 10,000 gallon reinforced concrete water tanks were constructed, partly through cooperation with Zone Five Flood Control District, to supply water for fire suppression on the Arrowhead Ranger District. Five miles of four wheel drive fire road, four miles of fire breaks and two miles of roadside hazard reduction work was completed on the San Gorgonio Ranger District, in cooperation with Zone Three Flood Control District.

The San Bernardino County Industrial Road Crew completed 28 miles of roadside fire hazard reduction work, built 3 miles of fire breaks and planted 2,000 cistus plants around the edge of the famous "Arrowhead" landmark, to control erosion and reduce possible fire damage.

To facilitate protection and management of the National Forest, a fleet of 105 automotive vehicles and 165 short wave radios were maintained in constant readiness.

FIRE PREVENTION - CONTROL PROGRESS:

1958 again emphasized the important fact that on the San Bernardino National Forest the fire season is in reality a yearlong fire problem. The first fire within the Forest during 1958 occurred at 2:00 A.M. on January 1, 1958 and the last fire occurred at 4:40 P.M. on December 29, 1958.

During the year the Forest experienced 140 fires of which 71 fires, or 51%, were caused by lightning and 69 fires, or 49%, were caused by human carelessness. The 140 fires burned 2,325 acres of watershed timber lands within the Forest boundary. Four fires, the Monkey, Ford and Hunt, caused by incendiarism, and the Indian Canyon, caused by lightning, escaped initial crew action and resulted in a total loss of 1,743 acres. The remaining 136 fires were controlled with an average loss of only 4.2 acres per fire.

Rapid, aggressive initial attack of all fires, adequate reinforcements, plus the judicious use of the new fire fighting tool, the aerial borate tankers, redcued the area destroyed to 1,653 acres less than the 1957 record and 9,681 acres less than the 1953-57 five year average.

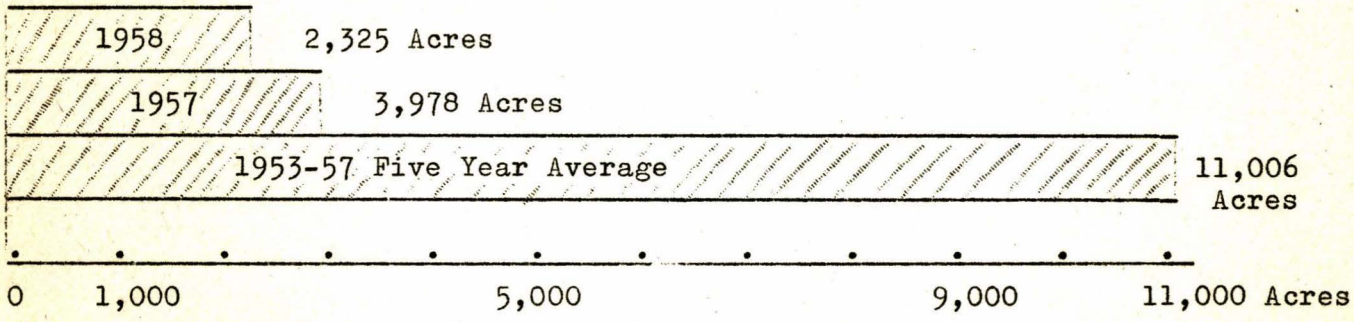

TABLE III - AREA BURNED 1958-1957 AND FIVE YEAR AVERAGE

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Intensive fire prevention activity on the part of all Forest personnel resulted in a reduction of nine man-caused fires less than the 1957 record and 12 below the 1953-57 five year average. Lumbering and miscellaneous caused fires show an increase over 1957 while all other man-causes remained the same or were reduced. Smoker and incendiary causes each showed substantial reduction.

Progress in new fire prevention techniques included the establishment of a program of roving fire prevention Check Stations where motorists were stopped briefly at Forest boundaries and reminded of the fire danger. An intensive

fire prevention campaign was carried on in the Redlands-Yucaipa area where local merchants contributed more than $500 worth of fire prevention advertising. Local service clubs and agriculture associations have contributed two large reflectorized Smokey Bear fire prevention signs and several copies of fire prevention motion picture films to the Forest Film Library.

The contract helicopter was again effective in prevention and fire detection work over areas where detection and ground prevention was not available. A trained helitack crew assigned to the helicopter worked on 41 fires and because of rapid aerial delivery made the initial attack on five fires. Through the use of fire fighting accessories such as the helitanker, hose trays, cargo racks, etc., the helicopter dropped 1,585 gallons of water to many critical areas on fires and delivered 18,515 pounds of equipment and supplies to the fire line.

Aerial tankers were used on 22 fires on the San Bernardino National Forest during 1958. In a total of 285 flights they delivered 232,840 gallons of borate solution to troublesome areas on a fire line. Proper use of this new fire tool is proving its worth in facilitating control of forest-watershed fires.

Forest officers cited 77 individuals into the Courts for failure to comply with fire laws and ordinances. Each of these cases were prosecuted successfully in the interest of good fire prevention.

SPECIAL USE PERMITS:

Forest officers administered 2,899 special use permits on National Forest lands. These represent a variety of uses ranging from apiaries, summer homes, youth organization camps, resorts, to ski lifts, major powerlines and many other commercial uses. Each special use permit must be carefully integrated into the multiple use management of all resources. Income from fees charged for the use of national forest lands exceeded $90,000 for this year.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT:

Progress was made in improving the habitat of the estimated 24,000 big game animals and thousands of smaller animals and birds that make the Forest their home.

Wildlife water developments and additional deer browseways were completed during the year.

An estimated 212,700 fishermen and 37,700 hunters used the National Forest. Rains, with a brief reduction in fire danger, made it possible to issue permits for entry into the areas normally closed because of high fire hazard over the last weekend of hunting season.

GRAZING BUSINESS:

1,946 cattle and 500 sheep grazed on the grasslands of the San Bernardino National Forest during the critical summer months when forage on private lands in the valleys is at a premium. The late spring rains helped produce one of the best forage years in recent history.

PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT:

In addition to a Landscape Architect recently employed on the Forest, a Forest Entomologist has been assigned to the four southern California National Forests, with headquarters on this Forest. He will aid in meeting the increased demands resulting from accelerated use. Development of a new staff position in the Forest Supervisor's Office to handle timber management, wildlife and grazing will provide the management of these vital resources with improved technical direction.

Safety was number one priority during 1958. Safety to the employee and to the public who visit the Forest. More than 300 permanent and temporary employees worked over 500,000 man hours under every type of weather conditions, night and day, in steep, rugged topography, at a variety of hazardous jobs including fire fighting with a minimum of accidents to personnel or equipment.

Public safety was emphasized in the design, construction and maintenance of all public facilities under Forest Service supervision.

COOPERATION

The fact that multiple use management can not succeed without cooperation makes it obvious that much of the progress and accomplishments summarized in this report would not have been possible without the outstanding cooperation of numerous groups and individuals.

State, County, City Governments, Fire Districts, Schools, Organizations, Newspapers, Radio Stations and individuals have all assisted in creating an atmosphere of interest in the protection and wise use of our natural resources. It is only through a continued and increasing program of cooperation that we can be sure that the gains that have been made will benefit the generations to come.

To each of you, as stockholders in the San Bernardino National Forest, we extend our appreciation for your interest and active cooperation in making this progress possible.

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Skyforest, California

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Arrowhead 741

Big Bear Ranger Station -

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San Gorgonio Ranger Station -

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